

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1

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SOURCE

1. Intensified chemical warfare training within the Czechoslovak Army was apparent from a number of measures which were introduced in the Infantry Military Training Center in Lipnik nad Bečvou /4932N-1736E/ and from regulations issued by the Ministry of National Defense concerning the increase of the fighting potential of the army in the field of specialized warfare. The frantic pace introduced into chemical warfare training was called forth by the propaganda accusing the Western Powers of preparations for chemical warfare and of the use of gas on the battle fronts in Korea. This propaganda was disseminated both in lectures and in the course of practical training outdoors, where it took the form of various posters fastened to poles surrounding the training area.
2. Up to the middle of 1951, the chemical warfare training had been carried out without special emphasis in the Infantry Training Center. The training in chemical warfare was purely defensive; the offensive use of chemical warfare was mentioned only in lectures. Spraying from aircraft and use of artillery chemical shells was mentioned. The curriculum included for the most part, theories of gases and methods of defense against them; nothing was given which would supplement the experience gained during World War I. Practical training in the use of protective articles against chemical warfare or in the decontamination of gas-poisoned objects was very rarely given; when it was included it was more or less limited to demonstrations by the instructors. Chemical warfare training in small unit exercises in the Infantry Training Center had been directed rather toward defense measures against the effects of chemical weapons until the end of 1951. Training in the use of chemical weapons was limited to smoke screens and flame throwers. In view of this, all the tactical exercises aimed at the solution of chemical warfare problems were based on the presumption that the enemy had used gas. In the phase of offensive action, a strip of terrain lying in front of the enemy defense positions was usually selected, or areas leading to the launching point of the attack, which the enemy had contaminated with gas and which the training unit, wearing gas masks, either by passed (if the area was not too extensive), or through which it marked a passage. The defense training consisted of setting up shelters for protection against chemical agents, installing detectors in artillery entrenchments, etc.

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50X1

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

3. The actual use of gas was not taken into consideration even during field exercises of the officer corps of the Academy. At the Military College in Prague, until 1949, the training of higher units did not include the actual use of poisonous gases, and limited itself more or less to working out the amount of decontamination material required to clear a given area contaminated by the enemy. The training included only the actual use of smoke weapons for screening attacks (crossing of water barriers, regrouping of units) or for blocking the view of enemy artillery observation posts during defense actions.
4. Training with flame-throwers was carried out on a larger scale. Units were equipped with this weapon during exercises aimed at taking villages or launching attacks against heavy defense positions, or in support of defense actions at points of the enemy's main onslaught. During attacks on heavy defense positions, flame-throwers were allotted to front line subgroups of each attacking group for blocking and blinding firing positions of the fortifications. The number of flame-throwers varied from two to four according to the size of the target and number of firing positions. Taking buildings and fortified settlements was being solved along the same lines. 50X1
5. Smoke weapons in small unit exercises were mainly used to screen clearing actions enabling access to enemy defense positions (clearing passages through mine fields, cutting barbed wire obstacles, etc). The training unit usually used smoke-bombs for the creation of smoke screens. In unit exercises of higher units, smoke bombs, artillery smoke shells, and special aircraft were used to screen actions.
6. In the Infantry Officers School at Lipnik nad Bečvou, paper detectors were used for detecting the presence of chemical agents. The detectors were about five cm long and one cm wide. They were fixed on various parts of equipment (helmet, rucksack, etc) and in trenches or emplacements. The presence of a chemical agent was indicated by the discoloration of the detector. In the chemical school at Olomouc in 1947 I noticed another kind of detector consisting of a glass tube filled with liquid which also reacted to the presence of a chemical agent by coloring. This detector was of German origin. the types of detection kits, their quantity or distribution, nor their functional characteristics. 50X1
7. For decontamination of skin affected by yperite, the Infantry Officers School used chloride of lime, in powder form, soap and some kind of acid. For the decontamination of equipment and weapons, chloride of lime, soap, and hot water were used. The terrain sprayed by yperite was decontaminated only by chloride of lime in powder or liquid form. Sometimes the affected terrain was decontaminated by turning the soil with the use of spades, and covering it with fresh, unaffected earth. Another means of overcoming contaminated earth was the use of improvised carpets of straw, branches, or wooden boards. The individual soldier was issued a package containing chloride of lime, soap, and vaseline, for personal decontamination. The packages were of linen and attached to the straps of gas masks. They were of German origin. For protection against chemical agents sprayed from aircraft, protective capes of German origin, made from impregnated material were used. These capes were sometimes also used for the improvised carpet for contaminated earth as well as for footwrappers for crossing the affected area. 50X1
8. At the Infantry Officers School, chemical scouts were equipped with portable containers and sprayers filled with liquid chloride of lime carried on their backs. In lectures, vehicular sprayers as equipment of special chemical units were mentioned.

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

-3-

50X1

9. [redacted] temporary duty assignments of students of the Staff College. These courses were purely of an informative character, to give students the basic idea of all branches of arms of the Czech army. [redacted] a few informative lectures dealing with gases known from World War I. After the lapse [redacted] to recollect any details of these lectures. Apart from lectures, there were two practical demonstration in the field. One demonstration dealt with smoke screens; the other served to show us the department of a divisional clearing station which had been specially equipped for decontamination of persons affected by chemical agents. It consisted of a large tent with several sections for a gradual decontamination process. There was a section for discarding clothes and their decontamination, a section for applying chloride of lime to the body, showers, etc. At that time there were no Soviet advisers present. The chemical warfare unit in Olomouc bore the name of Prapor zvlastnich bojovych prostredku (Battalion for special combat methods). The chemical warfare units in a division and regiment bear similar names. In a division the chemical warfare unit is Rota zvlastnich bojovych prostredku (company for special combat methods), and in a regiment the unit is a Ceta zvlastnich bojovych prostredku (platoon for special combat methods).
10. The only kind of portable flame throwers used in the Infantry Officers School were of German origin. [redacted] no knowledge of any other flame thrower being used by the Czech army.
11. A change in this policy of non-emphasis of chemical warfare took place at the Infantry Training School some time around June 1951. Unexpected checks of chemical materials were carried out in the unit, and instructions were issued for intensified training of all members of the army, including officers. In the Infantry Academy, this change was manifested first by the calling-up of chemical warfare instructors to a refresher course in chemical warfare which lasted approximately 14 days. Upon their return to their units, there was an immediate check of gas masks kept in storage or issued to members of the Academy for training purposes. Gas masks were issued to all members of the Officers Corps and career NCO's. The curriculum for students of the Training Center in 1951-52 showed an increase in the number of hours of chemical warfare instruction and the practical work in the field. Instructions were received to include chemical warfare problems in tactical exercises at the expense of tactical training. The staff of chemical warfare instructors was also increased by one officer, a graduate of the Chemical Warfare Training Center, and four enlisted men who had taken a course in chemical warfare. These men, attached to units of students on tactical exercises checked the correctness of the solution of chemical warfare problems, ie putting on gas masks, crossing areas marked as contaminated with a deadly concentration of gases. "Chemické Trenirovky" (chemical warfare training classes) for students were given in the afternoons, apart from the hours of tuition in chemical warfare prescribed in the curriculum. During these afternoon classes, the students were trained in putting on gas masks with the maximum amount of speed, and in the use of protective capes.
12. Training was also extended for the Officer Corps and career NCO's. Apart from the practical training in putting on gas masks and the use of protective capes, theoretical lectures were given dealing with the effects of various gases and protective measures against them. The officers and NCO's took training twice a week in the place of normal exercises.

50X1

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-4-

13. In order to obtain the maximum speed in putting on gas masks or protective capes, instructions were issued for competitions to be held between units of students and groups of officers. The student or officer who attained the best results during the period of training was then publicly praised by the instructor and was made an example.
14. In addition, chemical warfare alarms were sounded every Saturday morning; the duration of these alarms was gradually extended. Every member of the Academy had to put on his gas mask and continue with his work.
15. Formerly at the Infantry Training School in the theoretical lectures and practical training, only the gases used in World War I were mentioned. 50X1
 [redacted] there was mention of some kind of nerve gas which was supposedly being produced by the Western powers. [redacted] know whether or what chemical agents the Czech army intended to use. 50X1
 During the chemical warfare training, the characteristic qualities of phosgene, diphosgene, cyanogen, arsine and mustard gas were brought out. 50X1
 Mustard gas was used during practical exercises in the decontamination of human skin and various equipment. In order to check the reliability of the gas masks and the correct wearing thereof, a tear gas ([redacted]) was used in the gas chambers. The equipment 50X1
 used during the training in chemical warfare consisted of:

gas mask of German origin
 protective cape for use against the spraying of gas by aircraft, 50X1
 also of German origin
 all-rubber suit
 impregnated cotton fatigue suit
 chloride of lime
 detector for ascertaining the presence of gas in the form of a
 paper strip, half an inch wide and a little more than one
 inch long
 smoke grenades and bombs
 flame throwers

Each individual was given a gas mask and protective cape. The rest of the material was kept in storage and used only for demonstration purposes. Smoke grenades were only used for tactical exercises, though in sufficient quantities.

16. In about October 1951, the chief of the chemical warfare section was instructed to find a suitable location in the areas of the tactical drill grounds for carrying out chemical warfare training in defense and attack operations. For defense purposes, it was to be a network of trenches with complete anti-chemical warfare equipment large enough for an infantry platoon, and for attack purposes it was to provide launching grounds for action by an infantry company. According to his statement, such orders had been issued to all military schools and units. The construction of these drill grounds was undertaken toward the end of 1951.

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50X1

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